

BLAYDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1950

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BLAYDON.

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1951.



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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH.

FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1950.



# **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

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## **Medical Officer of Health :**

HENRY RUSSELL, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

## **Senior Sanitary Officer:**

GEORGE E. RENWICK, M.S.I.A.

## **Additional Sanitary Inspector :**

WILSON JOYCE, M.S.I.A.

## **Public Health Clerk :**

DOUGLAS D. BLAIR

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Blaydon-on-Tyne,  
August, 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Blaydon.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The Vital Statistics are not quite as good as last year. The Birth Rate is slightly lower whilst the Death Rate and the Infantile Mortality Rate have both risen.

We had a mild epidemic of Measles concentrated chiefly in the Second Quarter of the year but there were no deaths.

We had no cases of Diphtheria this year but it is still important that every child should be immunised if we are to keep up this record.

In the early part of this year we had a remarkably widespread epidemic of Dysentery. Fortunately it was a very mild type (SONNE) and the majority of the cases were discovered by the diligence of the Health Department staff who were more than fully stretched by the work of taking samples etc.

Our thanks are due to the Surveyor, the Rating Department, the Housing Surveyor and the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. McCracken, for information included in my report.

I wish to give my personal thanks to the Staff of the Health Department who were at all times ready with their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY RUSSELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

## Area

Since 1936 the acreage has remained at 9,274.

Present density of population is 3.34 persons per acre.

Highest density of population (in 1925) was 3.96 persons per acre.

## Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of our mid-1950 civilian population is 30,960 (an increase of 190 on last year) of which children 0-4 (inclusive) account for 2,694 and children 5-14 (inclusive) account for 4,452.

At the 1931 census the population stood at 32,363.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1950 was 8,964.

The density of persons per house was therefore 3.452.

## Rateable Value

The rateable value of the district is now £126,031 and excludes Freight, Transport and Electrical Hereditaments. The average rateable value per head of population is £4/1/9 and the estimated product of a 1d. rate is £461/8/7d.

## Industries of the District

These are chiefly mining and ancillary industries for production of coke and other by-products. There are also Iron and Steel Engineering Works, Iron Foundries and Chemical Works. Blaydon is also a railway centre with large Locomotive Sheds.

Agriculture—chiefly dairy farming—is an important industry in the area.

## Physical Features

Hilly area, Blaydon and Rowlands Gill lie low, Winlaton and Chopwell high. The rivers Tyne and Derwent form parts of the boundary.

## Vital Statistics for the Year 1950

### Births

Total Live Births	...	...	469	258M	211F
Total Illegitimate Births	...	...	14	3M	11F
Total Still Births	...	...	23	14M	9F

This gives a Live Birth Rate of 15.15 per 1,000 population and a Still Birth Rate of 0.74 per 1,000 population.

Birth Rate for Administrative County	...	...	17.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	15.8
Birth Rate for 148 Smaller Towns	...	...	16.7

(Population 25,000 to 50,000)

## Deaths

The total number of deaths recorded during the year was 364 of which 194 were males and 170 were females, giving an Annual Death Rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population as compared with last year's rate of 10.69.

Death Rate for England and Wales ... 11.6 per 1,000

Death Rate for Administrative County ... 11.8 per 1,000

The Cardio-Vascular group of diseases was again the chief cause of death: viz:—

Heart Diseases ... .. 117 ) giving a total

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System 51 ) of 196 deaths

Other Diseases of Circulatory System 28 ) for this group.

The next most important cause of death was Cancer with 46 deaths.

## Infantile Mortality

Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age 23 (10M 13F).

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 49 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the County is 40 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 29.8 per 1,000 live births.

1 child under the age of 1 year died from Gastro-enteritis, giving a Mortality Rate of 2.13 per 1,000 live births whilst that for England and Wales is 1.9 per 1,000 live births.

A graph is appended (page 18) comparing the Infantile Mortality Rates during the last 21 years in Blaydon, Durham County and England and Wales.

## Maternal Mortality

There was one death from maternal causes. This gives a Maternal Death Rate of 0.32 as compared with 1.15 for the Administrative County and .86 for England and Wales.

## Tuberculosis

There were 11 deaths (8 males and 3 females) from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 (female) from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... .35 per 1,000 pop.

Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0.03 per 1,000 pop.

County Death Rates—Pulmonary ... .039 per 1,000 pop.

Non-Pulmonary ... .006 per 1,000 pop.

England and Wales—All forms of Tuberculosis 0.36 per 1,000 pop.

New cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year numbered 31 Pulmonary (16M and 15F) and 8 Non-Pulmonary (3M and 5F).



## **Ambulance Facilities**

Durham County Council provide the ambulance service under the National Health Service Act.

Doctors, Nurses and Dentists requiring an ambulance for any of their patients contact the nearest Ambulance Control, the Office-in-Charge of which arranges the necessary transport.

In the case of accident or other serious emergency any responsible person may summon an ambulance by telephoning the Ambulance Control.

The nearest Ambulance Control to Blaydon is at the Ambulance Station, Villa Real, Consett. (Telephone No. CONSETT 411.)

## **District Nursing**

The County Council is the responsible Authority under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act for the provision of a Home Nursing Service. Any requests for a Home Nurse should be made to the nurse resident in the district or to the County Medical Officer's Superintendent of Home Nursing.

## **Treatment Centres and Clinics**

Clinics for school children, maternity and child welfare are provided by the County Council at various centres throughout the district.

Dental and Sun-ray treatment are available for mothers and children at the Axwell Park, Blaydon Clinic which is the main centre in the district.

## **Hospital Provision**

The provision of Hospital, Sanatorium and Maternity Home accommodation is the responsibility of the Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Hospital Board.

## **National Health Service Act, 1946**

An Area Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee has been set up to deal with the undermentioned services in No. 1 Area (Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham Urban Districts):

- (a) Health Centres;
- (b) Maternity and Child Welfare;
- (c) Midwifery;
- (d) Health Visitors;
- (e) Home Nursing;
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation;
- (g) Ambulances;
- (h) Prevention of illness and Care and After Care of Sick Persons;
- (i) Domestic Help.

## **Infectious Diseases :**

Cases of Infectious Diseases are removed to Norman's Riding Hospital which comes under the Gateshead and District Hospital Management Committee.

This hospital has a total bed complement of 76, of which 26 are available for Thoracic Surgery.

In the event of Smallpox occurring in the district such cases would be treated at the Langley Park Hospital.

## **Venereal Diseases :**

These are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### **Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases**

During the year 720 notifications were received of which 29 proved negative. Measles (277), Dysentery (264), and Whooping Cough (81), were most prevalent.

#### **Typhoid Fever**

One case was notified and proved to be positive.

#### **Smallpox**

No cases were notified.

#### **Typhus**

No cases were notified.

#### **Scarlet Fever.**

46 cases were notified of which 45 proved positive.

#### **Diphtheria**

7 cases were notified all of which proved negative.

#### **Diphtheria Prophylaxis**

Immunisation against Diphtheria of children of all ages is now the responsibility of the County Council.

The percentages of children considered immunised against Diphtheria at the end of the year are indicated in the following table:—

	Under 5 Years	Between 5 and 15 Years
(a) Estimated Number of children in area at 31st December, 1950 ... ..	2,694	4,452
(b) Number of children immunised at 31st December, 1950 ... ..	1,347	3,495
(c) Percentage of child population shown under (a) considered immunised at 31st December, 1950 ... ..	50.00	83.00
(d) Percentage of child population shown under (a) considered immunised at 31st December, 1950. (All children 0 to 14 inclusive) ...	70.55	

**Measles**

277 cases were notified of which 155 occurred during the second quarter. There were no deaths.

**Whooping Cough**

There were 81 cases notified, chiefly during the first and second quarters of the year. There were no deaths.

**Pneumonia**

12 cases were notified of which 5 were Influenzal Pneumonia.

**Erysipelas**

7 cases were notified.

**Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis**

2 cases were notified but both proved negative. There was however, one death from a case which was not notified.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

1 case was notified and proved positive.

**Acute Infective Encephalitis**

No cases were notified.

**Acute Poliomyelitis**

1 case was notified which proved negative.

**Puerperal Pyrexia**

No cases were notified.

**Dysentery**

277 cases were notified of which 264 proved positive. Of the positive cases 188 occurred in the first quarter of the year and 74 in the second. The outbreak was of a mild Sonne type and the majority of the cases were discovered by the diligence of the Health Department staff.

**Food Poisoning**

7 cases were notified of which 3 were confirmed.

**Membranous Group**

1 case was notified and was proved positive.

**Laboratory Facilities**

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory, Government Buildings, Newcastle upon Tyne, by arrangement with the Durham County Council. They are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

The following table shows particulars of 1,335 examinations carried out in respect of residents in the Blaydon Urban Area during 1950.

## Bacteriological Examinations for Blaydon District, 1950

					No. of Specimens	Positive
<b>Blood</b> (Serological Examinations)						
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	5	1
Culture	...	...	...	...	1	1
<b>Faeces</b>						
Enteric	...	...	...	...	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	56	21
Organisms	...	...	...	...	883	430
<b>Urine</b>						
Enteric	...	...	...	...	—	—
Organisms	...	...	...	...	5	2
<b>Swabs</b> (Throat, Nasal and Ear)						
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	37	—
Hæmolytic Streptococci	...	...	...	...	29	9
Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	...	10	6
Organisms	...	...	...	...	23	19
<b>Sputum</b>						
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	47	9
†Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	200	34
*Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	39	37
					1335	569

† These are tuberculosis specimens taken at County Dispensaries, Hospitals and Sanatoria.

\* This section is composed of examinations of Cerebro-Spinal Fluid; Sputum for organisms; Pus for Organisms. Pleural Fluid; Miscellaneous Material for pathogens; Vaginal swabs and sputum for culture.

I have received the following report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area from the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

### Water Supply

Apart from Stella and a few isolated premises where there are private supplies, all dwelling houses in the district are supplied with good quality water from the companies' mains. The township of Blaydon is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. and the remainder of the district by the Durham County Water Board. No cases of illness attributable to the water supplies have been reported during the year.

### **Closet Accommodation**

During the year 11 ash closets (2 at Winlaton, 1 at Rowlands Gill and 8 at High Spen) were converted into water closets. 233 water closets were provided in newly constructed houses, 28 water closets were provided in business premises and 15 additional water closets were provided in dwelling houses.

This brings the total number of water closets in the district to 9,090, 10 water closets having been dispensed with in houses which were closed during the year.

### **Household Refuse Collection and Disposal**

This work is done by direct labour. In certain parts of the district where refuse is heavy, ash bins are emptied twice and in all other parts once weekly.

Ash closets are cleansed weekly.

At the end of the year three 3-ton Dennis and one 3-ton Vulcan collecting vehicles were operating, each with a driver and five loaders. One 3-ton Vulcan, 14 years old and at the end of its useful life is held in reserve.

Three disposal points are used, Blaydon, Chopwell and Rowlands Gill and tipping is controlled, one man being employed at each point.

### **Offices**

Offices have been visited and action taken where necessary.

### **Camping Sites**

There are no licensed camping sites in the area.

### **Picture Halls**

Nine picture halls are operating in the area. These are kept in fairly satisfactory order.

### **Swimming Baths**

There are no swimming baths in the area.

### **Factories Act, 1937**

Factories were visited during the year and while it was not found necessary to take statutory action, informal action was taken and in one case, meetings with the directors of the Venture Transport Co. (Newcastle) Ltd. took place with the object of procuring additional sanitary accommodation at their garage at High Spen. Plans for new accommodation have been deposited with the Council.

## Bakehouses

There are six bakehouses operating in the area which were visited occasionally and found in a clean condition.

## Housing

781 informal notices were served on the owners of dwelling houses and of these 733 had been complied with by the end of the year. In addition, the work required by 105 informal notices served in 1949 was completed.

The following statement respecting the erection of new houses has been furnished by Mr. Young, the Council's Housing Surveyor.

### COUNCIL HOUSES

Winlaton	...	...	...	93	
Rowlands Gill	...	...	...	16	
Blaydon	...	...	...	2	
				—	111

Seven houses, 4 at Rowlands Gill, 2 at Winlaton and 1 at Blaydon, were built by private enterprise.

### Number of Houses in the District

Blaydon	...	...	...	...	2032	
Stella	...	...	...	...	174	
Winlaton	...	...	...	...	2312	
Barlow	...	...	...	...	82	
High Spen	...	...	...	...	747	
Rowlands Gill	...	...	...	...	939	
Victoria Garesfield and Highfield					506	
Lintzford	...	...	...	...	24	
Chopwell	...	...	...	...	1530	
Blackhall Mill	...	...	...	...	261	
Winlaton Mill	...	...	...	...	357	
					—	8964



## Food

Visits have been made to premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of food and appropriate action taken, but owing to pressure of other work the supervision of these premises has not been as regular or as systematic as the importance of this branch of our duties demands.

### Meat

Meat is received into this district from Newcastle and is inspected in retail shops in the area.

### Milk

#### Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-49

The following licences under the above Regulations were granted during the year :—

##### Dealers' Licences

Pasteurised	...	...	...	19
Sterilised	...	...	...	24
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	9
				— 52

##### Supplementary Licences

Pasteurised	...	...	...	1
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Milk receiving depots and dairies have been visited and appropriate action taken.

### Ice Cream

There are five ice cream manufacturers in the district.

In one case new premises have been built and modern machinery installed. In another the premises have been improved.

In all five cases the main provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 and 1948 are being complied with.

### Catering Establishments

These premises have been kept under observation and as a result there has been an improvement in the standard of cleanliness in both premises and personnel.

### Food Poisoning

During the year investigations were made into 7 cases of suspected food poisoning, 3 of which proved positive.

Examinations of faeces indicated the presence of

(1) Salmonelli Bovis Morbificans

(2) Typhi-Muriem Aertryke.

The cases were not connected with each other.

## Clean Food Campaign

Following the inaugural meeting held in November, 1949, a series of meetings were held in different parts of the district at which Food Traders, Councillors and the Sanitary Officers discussed measures necessary to procure and ensure a good, clean, safe food supply in the district.

A basic Code of Hygiene was adopted and accepted as a minimum standard of practice.

It was decided at these meetings that when traders attained the standard a certificate should be awarded to them but that no certificates should be awarded before January 1st, 1951, so as to give a reasonable opportunity to all traders to take steps to comply with the Code.

The Council agreed to provide and present to successful traders an attractive form of certificate.

A "DON'TS FOR CUSTOMERS" Notice was drawn up and by the end of March had been distributed and was being displayed in shops throughout the district.

During the year your Sanitary Inspectors made inspections of food premises as often as circumstances permitted, and gave advice on adaptations, alterations, improvements and personal hygiene to food traders and their assistants.

The response has on the whole been fairly satisfactory.

Shops are cleaner and more attractive. I consider that although throughout the district there has been a general uplift and a noticeable improvement in the handling of food, still more attention must be paid to personnel hygiene.

Structural improvements are necessary and important even if only because they make other precautions easier, but unless a high standard of personal hygiene is continually observed and food is adequately protected against contamination at all times the value of structural work is considerably reduced.

## Food Inspection

The following quantities of food, found to be unsound, were voluntarily surrendered and so disposed of as to prevent them being used for the food of man.

### Canned Meat

83 tins Luncheon Meat.	4 tins Rabbit.
39 ,, Chopped Pork Luncheon Meat.	3 ,, Stewed Steak.
	3 ,, Lunch Tongue.
16 ,, Minced Beef Loaf.	2 ,, Jellied Veal.
10 ,, Meat and Gravy.	2 ,, Cooked Ham.



## Other Meats

603½ lbs. Beef.  
123 lbs Sausage.  
97½ lbs. Bacon.

1 Bovine Head.  
1 Bovine Tongue.

## Fish

6 tins Pilchards.  
4 „ Salmon.

4 stones Cod Fillets.

## Milk

158 tins.

## Jams and Marmalades

8 Jars.

## Canned Vegetables and Fruit

68 tins Peas.  
52 „ Beans.  
49 „ Tomatoes.  
14 „ Carrots.  
7 „ Mixed Vegetables.  
2 „ Spaghetti.  
4 „ Scotch Broth.

10 tins Vegetable Soup.  
86 „ Plums.  
12 „ Pears.  
6 „ Grapes.  
5 „ Oranges.  
2 „ Peaches.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

This Act came into operation on the 31st March, 1950, and in September, 1950, a part-time Rodent Operator was engaged.

Complaints received of the presence of rats were investigated and dealt with forthwith.

A survey of the district by the rodent operator was in progress at the end of the year.

The bi-annual pre-baiting and poison baiting of sewer man-holes was carried out with satisfactory results.

Sewage works and refuse tips were treated 4 times during the year and other Council properties as and when necessary.

The estimated number of rats destroyed was as follows:—

Blaydon and Winlaton Sewers ...	320
Sewage Works ... ..	75
Sewer Outfalls ... ..	26
Council Tips ... ..	45
Shibdon Farm ... ..	90
Private Lands ... ..	426

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982

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# Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1950.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospital	Positive.	Negative.
Smallpox . . .	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever . . .	46	39	45	1
Diphtheria . . .	7	7	—	7
Typhoid . . .	1	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia . . .	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Lobar.) . . .	7	—	7	—
Pneumonia (Influenzal) . . .	5	—	5	—
Erysipelas . . .	7	—	7	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum . . .	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis . . .	1	1	—	1
Dysentery . . .	277	4	264	13
Measles . . .	277	—	277	—
Whooping Cough . . .	81	—	81	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis . . .	2	2	—	2
Malaria . . .	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning . . .	7	—	3	4
Membranous Croup . . .	1	1	1	—

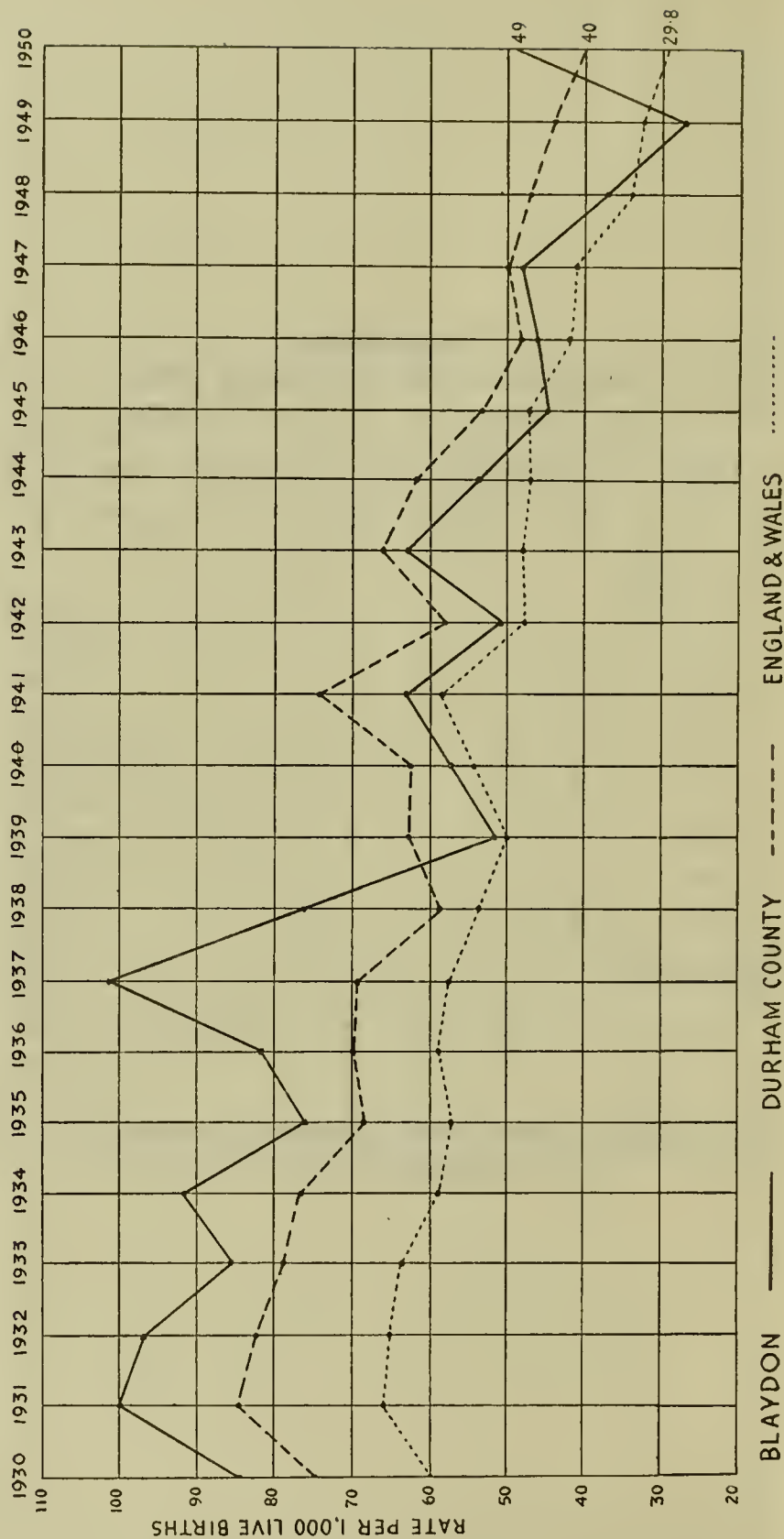
## Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5	1	1	2	2				1
15	1	5		1				
25	4	6		1	4			
35	3			2	1	2		
45	3				2			
55	2	2				1		
65 & upwards	1					1		
Total	15	14	3	6	7	4		1

Ratio of Non-Notified Tuberculous deaths to  
total Tuberculous deaths = 2 - 12

Graph comparing Infantile Mortality Rate for Blaydon, Durham County, England and Wales since 1930.



REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1950.

Causes of Deaths.		Males	Females
1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	8	3
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	1
3	Syphilitic disease ...	1	...
4	Diphtheria ...	...	...
5	Whooping Cough ...	...	...
6	Meningo-coccal infection ...	...	1
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...
8	Measles ...	...	...
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	2
11	"    "    lung, bronchus	4	3
12	"    "    breast ...	...	3
13	"    "    uterus	...	2
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	17	7
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia ...	...	1
16	Diabetes ...	2	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	31
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	34	15
19	Hyper-tension with heart disease	5	6
20	Other heart disease ...	27	41
21	Other circulatory disease ...	10	7
22	Influenza	1	3
23	Pneumonia ...	8	13
24	Bronchitis ...	13	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	...
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	10	2
29	Hyper-plasia of prostate ...	1	...
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	...	1
31	Congenital malformations ...	...	...
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	15
33	Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	...
34	All other accidents ...	5	3
35	Suicide ...	1	...
36	Homicide and operations of war...	...	...
Total Deaths 364		194	170

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## Analysis of Positive Cases into Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 years and over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever		1	4	9	3	20	5	2			1		45
Diphtheria													Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia													Nil
Pneumonia									1	3	3		7
Pneumonia (Influenzal)									1	1	2	1	5
Erysipelas							1		1	1	4		7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum													Nil
Typhoid									1				1
Measles	13	24	42	45	32	111	5	1	3	1			277
Whooping Cough	5	12	13	18	17	16							81
Poliomyletis													Nil
Dysentery	8	19	24	18	16	60	17	6	47	20	22	7	264
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis													Nil
Membranous Group					1								1



